

TITLEWorld timepieceDESCRIPTION

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Prior art

There are a small number of mechanical world time pieces or, indeed, GMT timepieces, both digital and analog. The 10 most frequent models with a mechanical movement have an additional hand, which, on a 24h dial, allows a second time zone to be read. The drawback with such models is the unaccustomed time display of this additional hand, for the habitual pattern of behavior is to read the time 15 on an analog 12h dial.

These models also frequently have a time zone ring, which, either as a turning ring or as a ring, is fastened in the dial and rotates. The time zone ring contains 24 destinations. This allows the user to read the time 20 simultaneously in 24 time zones. The drawback is once again, however, that the reading of the individual time zones is complicated and does not conform to the habitual pattern of behavior, so that mistakes are often made in reading.

25 For some years there have also been GMT timepieces having a push-piece which allows the hour hand to be advanced or put back, by pushing, in a 1h cycle. Although the analog readability is thereby improved, the drawback exists that these GMT timepieces are not easily manageable and that 30 the sequential resetting of the time in the 1h cycle is laborious and lengthy.

Object:

35 The object of the present invention is therefore to develop the most complete and user-friendly world

timepiece which has ever existed on a mechanical basis.
This implies the following:

- Optimal ease of use: The user must be able to change
5 into any time zone with maximum simplicity and speed
and to read the time there.
- Optimal readability: the timepiece must display the
10 time in the set destination in accordance with the
habitual analog pattern of behavior.
- Artisana Horlogère: This timepiece is intended to be
driven via a mechanical wheel train located in a
15 watertight housing.

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Requirements:

Only one time is intended ever to be displayed, i.e.
there is either a home time or a destination time.

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The timepiece has a turning ring with 24 locality
designations. The locality designations are listed
according to their official deviation from the zero
meridian and have an indication as to whether there is an
25 official DST (daylight saving time) at this locality.

The turning ring can be turned both in the clockwise and
in the counterclockwise direction. It engages according
to the time zones at 24 positions. When it is turned to
30 the right, the hour hands move forward; when it is turned
to the left, the hour hands move back. Optionally, this
principle can also be reversed, i.e. when the turning
ring is turned to the right, the hour hands move back;
when it is turned to the left, they move forward.

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The turning ring is lockable, so that the time zone

cannot be inadvertently adjusted.

When the turning ring is turned, the hour hands adjust directly and synchronously to the locality located at 12
5 o'clock on the turning ring.

Working principle:

The inventive achievement of these objects emerges from
10 the features in claim 1.

In order to allow the interaction between turning ring and hour hand, a wheel train has been designed and developed which can be engaged and disengaged from
15 outside the housing and simultaneously guarantees watertightness. (See fig. 6)

The coupling operation is actuated via a lever on the housing. It is opened or closed by means of a device such
20 as, for example, a lever connected to the housing.

In the closed state, the lever, by virtue of its shape and with the shape of the turning ring, locks the turning ring. If the lever is not used to lock the turning ring,
25 this is done through the shape of the push-piece.

If the lever is open, the turning ring can be turned in both directions.

The lever operates a push-piece. This push-piece
30 operates, in turn, a further lever, the clutch rocker, which engages and disengages the mechanism.

When the lever is open, the mechanism is engaged and the user can turn the desired locality on the turning ring to
35 12 h. The displayed time corresponds to that of the locality on the turning ring at 12 o'clock.

The 24-hour hand, which rotates synchronously with the 12-hour hand once every 24 hours and has its own number scale, provides the user with information on whether it
5 is day or night in the set destination.

A further innovation is the consideration given to the summer and wintertime display (= DST, Daylight Saving Time). All localities which bring in a statutory summer
10 or wintertime are marked with a symbol on the turning ring. If it is now summertime for a particular locality, the user must set the DST symbol for the corresponding locality to the 12 o'clock position and the current time for the locality is displayed by the hands.
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List of drawings

Fig. 1 shows a 3D-view of the transmission mechanism

20 Fig. 2 shows the starting position of the timepiece, the mechanism is disengaged, the timepiece is set to London and displays the time of 07.30 a.m.

25 Fig. 3 shows the starting position of the timepiece, the mechanism is engaged, the turning ring can now be turned to the desired destination at 12 h.

30 Fig. 4 shows the new time zone setting, after the turning ring has been turned 3 clicks to the right and the clock mechanism has thus been actuated. The timepiece is set to Moscow and shows a time of 10.30 a.m.

35 Fig. 5 shows an alternative design of the wheel train. When the turning ring is turned to the right, the time display is moved in the counterclockwise direction; when it is turned to the left, in the clockwise direction.

Fig. 6 shows a cross section 3H of the timepiece. It shows how the watertightness has been achieved, and the principle of a turning ring with an exchangeable insert.

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Fig. 7 shows a special push-piece with cross section and frontal section.

Detailed functional description:

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The turning ring in fig. 1 has a bottom-fixed spur gear wheel (6), which drives a vertically mounted wheel (5) in the housing, which wheel, for its part, drives a clutch wheel (4). The pinions (4, 5) are mutually connected by a shaft. Fig. 6 shows that the housing and the gear wheel have been designed such that this vertical wheel (5A) is 'concealed' within the outer side of the housing and is connected by a sealed axle (5C) to a clutch wheel (4), thereby producing the watertightness. The cap (5B) seals the drive wheel against the outside. The drive wheel (5A) is always connected to the gear rim ring (6).

Fig. 2 shows the starting position. The lever (1) is closed and forces the push-piece (2) inward. The push-piece (2), for its part, actuates the clutch rocker (3), which, in this state, has disengaged the clutch pinion (4). The timepiece always shows the time at that destination which is set at 12h and 24h respectively. In fig. 2, London is selected and the hands (15, 16, 17) show a time of 07.30 a.m.

Fig. 3 shows the engagement mechanism. The lever (1) of the timepiece is opened. The following operations take place:

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- The lever (1) moves outward.

- The push-piece (2) is released and is forced outward by its own spring.
 - The locking of the turning ring (7) with its gear rim (6) is thereby released.
- 5 - The clutch rocker (3) is forced by the switching lever spring by one end against the inner part of the push-piece (2). If the push-piece (2) moves outward, the clutch rocker (3), forced by the switching lever spring, adopts the "engaged" position.
- 10 - The other end of the switching lever engages the clutch pinion (4) and the clutch shaft, respectively, in the first change wheel (8). Located, fixedly connected, on this shaft is the outer gear wheel (5), which is engaged with the radial serrations (6) of the turning ring.
- 15 - If the turning ring is now moved, the minute wheels (8, 9) is moved by means of the outer gear wheel (6) and the pinions (4, 5). The minute wheels, for their part, drive the hour change wheels (10, 11). (see fig. 1)
- 20 - The minute wheel (9) moves, simultaneously, a 12-hour change wheel (10) and a 24-hour change wheel (11).
- 25 - In the bore of the 12-hour wheel, a forcipate double spring (= double collet (12) in figs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5) is fastened such that it clasps with its two catches into a drive star (14) having twelve teeth/indentations. This pinion is securely fastened on the canon pinion of a chosen basic train.
- 30 - If the 12-hour wheel (10) is moved by the mechanism described, the double spring of the collet (12) opens and the two catches respectively move on by the number of indentations corresponding to the number of time zones on the turning ring. Since the catch is fixedly connected to the 12-hour wheel
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(10), the 24-hour wheel also rotates along with the 12-hour-24-hour change wheel. The actual local time of the locality located at 12 h on the turning ring is thus always displayed.

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The turning ring (7) can be moved in both directions. In the example in fig. 4, the turning ring (7) is turned to the right to the destination 'Moscow'. With each turn, the hour hand (16) and the 24-hour hand (15) move forward 10 in a 1h-cycle. The timepiece now displays a time in Moscow of 10.30 a.m. The fine line to the left of Moscow on the turning ring indicates that Moscow has a summertime of +1h. The user must therefore establish whether it is winter or summertime. If it is summertime, 15 the user moves the turning ring (7) once more to the right. The timepiece would in this case display 11.30 a.m.

By closing the lever, the coupling mechanism is moved in 20 the opposite direction and the clutch pinion (4) disengaged from the first change wheel (8). The shape and dimensions of the lever (1) and of the clutch rocker (3) are chosen such that the locking of the turning ring (7) is only ever released once the mechanism is engaged. Or 25 conversely, the turning ring (7) is first locked and then the mechanism disengaged. An inadvertent desynchronization of the mechanism is thereby prevented.

To prevent the turning ring (7) from being inadvertently moved when the lever (1) is in the closed state, a 30 special push-piece shape has been designed (see fig. 7), which has a double function. On the one hand, the push-piece actuates the clutch rocker (3) in figs 1-5, and locks, by virtue of its shape, the gear wheel rim (6).

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According to whether the user views the world in the

direction of the South Pole or the North Pole, the destinations can be reversed. In figs 1-4, the wheel train has been designed such that, when the turning ring is turned to the right, the hour hands jump forward, and
5 when it is turned to the left, they jump back. Fig. 5 shows the wheel train in reverse form. As a result of the omission of a minute wheel, the 12-hour change wheel (10) and the 24-hour change wheel (11) are moved directly by the minute wheel (9). In this variant, the hour hands
10 move in the reverse direction to the turning direction, i.e. when the turning ring is turned to the right, the hour hands jump back, and when it is turned to the left, they jump forward. The turning ring normally has 24
destinations, but can also, in alternative embodiments,
15 have more destinations or fewer.

The timepiece has been designed such that the wheel train can also be coupled to a different display, particularly of the date, but also of the day of the week, the month
20 or the year. If the wheel train is coupled to the date, the date jumps, respectively, one day forward or back as the turning ring is turned over the 24h-threshold, according to the direction in which the turning ring has been turned.

25 The transmission mechanism in fig. 1 can also, however, be used to ensure that the date, the day of the week, the month or the year can be adjusted directly via the turning ring, without being coupled to the time display.
30 In these applications, the corresponding unit is adapted on the turning ring, e.g. 31 units for the date display, as well as the number of teeth on the gear rim and the wheel train.
35 A further application of the transmission mechanism in fig. 1 is an integrated alarm, which can be set via the

turning ring with a 24h-display.

Fig. 6 shows that the turning ring consists of two parts. Of central importance is the turning ring insert (19), which is fastened by four screws (18). This design allows the turning ring insert (19) to be rapidly and easily exchanged. It is thus possible to personalize the turning ring insert by compiling the destinations according to customer requirement. According to customer requirement, therefore, the world timepiece can contain all important business destinations for a businessman, all important stock exchanges for a stockbroker, all the islands for an island lover or the names of all major golf courses in the world for a golfer.

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The transmission mechanism in fig. 1 has been built such that it can be connected to already existing clock movements, or can function as a component part of a completely innovative clock movement. The mechanism can also be connected, moreover, to a chronograph movement. In this case, the push-pieces are fitted on the left side of the housing. Alternatively, the transmission mechanism can also be used to ensure that the chronograph functions are actuated by the turning of the turning wheel.